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ADDITION TO THE BUILDING.

The contract for the new galleries above Blackstone Hall, constituting the East Front of the building, has been let, and work is just beginning. These galleries, bearing numbers on the plan from 46 to 53, complete the square of the second floor, and will add more than one-half to the sky-lighted hanging space. There will be seven new picture galleries and two store rooms which may later easily be converted into small galleries. There will also be two fine long sky-lighted galleries or class rooms above corridors 49 and 54. Four of these galleries are 45x26 feet, or almost exactly the dimensions of the larger Nickerson Room, the Field Room, the Hutchinson Room and Room 27 of the South wing, which are the most elegantly proportioned and the most convenient type of gallery we have. The stone work of the East front will be completed at the same time, at a cost for the whole improvement of about \$105,000. Last October Mr. James A. Patten offered to contribute \$25,000 towards the construction of these new galleries. The Trustees have been able to raise by subscription \$46,000 additional, making a total of \$71,000. The subscription is now in progress, and we appeal to the members and friends of the Art Institute for their assistance in raising the additional \$30,000 necessary.

The galleries will be ready for occupation at the time of the Annual Reception next October. This will complete our building except the central stairway and dome, and certain sculptured work of the exterior.

We have, after all recent discussions, adhered to the plan of very broad and unbroken sky-lights and very narrow coves in the galleries, believing them the best at least for our

climate, since it is much easier to shut out light if excessive than to add it if deficient. The floor will be of cement covered with linoleum or cork carpet with black marble borders.

RECENT EXHIBITIONS.

The Exhibition of the Society of Western Artists occupied two of the galleries from January 5 to January 24. This year, varying from the usual custom of the society, the jury of selection met at St. Louis, and the exhibition was first shown there. The exhibit was an interesting one, showing special strength in the number and character of the landscapes, most of which were typically western in motive. The large gallery was completely hung with oils, while the smaller room was occupied by the water colors, etchings and miniatures and the remaining oils. The Fine Arts Building Prize was awarded to Charles Francis Browne for his two landscapes, "Autumn," and "A Hill-side;" and the Wednesday Club, St. Louis, Prize to Miss Ethel Mars for her strikingly decorative painting, "Woman with a Monkey." The Western Society pictures have been shown, since their exhibition here, at Cleveland, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, and they will visit a number of other cities during the Spring.

At the same time with the Western, four special exhibitions were held. Galleries 25 and 26 were filled with drawings by Edwin H. Blashfield, preliminary studies for the mural paintings which have engrossed his attention for several years. The delicacy and precision of the drawings, as well as the dignity and scholarship of the compositions for which they served, gave this work a special interest for the art students.